

SGA is here to serve you

Adel LYAMANI &

Fatima Zohra BENSAID

What truly make our University outstanding is not simply classrooms, attractive cheers, luxurious dorms or the Olympic swimming pool. Our University's excellence is based on the every day decisions, contribution and involvement of each student, faculty member and administrator.

Being characterized as an organization exclusively serving your interests, the SGA (Student Government Association), works vigorously toward improving the quality of your stay at AUI ...

(see page 5)



The New SGA Board in their weekly meeting in bldg 4

Moroccan Job Market "CDG"

Ijlal LOUTFI



Mr El Hajoui, CDG addressing the students

On Wednesday February 15, 2006 The Career Services organized a career talk by Mr. Hamza El Hajoui, Economiste, Professeur Assistant et Responsable de l'institut CDG, about: "How to Integrate the Moroccan Job Market?"

Many students attended this career talk and were in their majority sophomore or senior students. The major points discussed by Mr. El Hajoui can be summed up as follows:

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Don't Miss the Career Week

Career Services of our university organizes for the first time a career week whereby professional are invited to talk about the Moroccan Job Market. This coincides with the third Edition of the Job Fair, having gained in fame and experience, promises to be another success.



Editorial

A Must Read

Center for Academic Development and Study Skills

1. What is the current number of students currently enrolled in CAD

In Spring 2006 CAD has 549 students in five courses

2. How does CAD manage the big number of students (especially these last two semesters) with the restricted number of teachers and classrooms

Hired more teachers; classes are fuller; all CAD faculty are teaching their maximum load, as opposed to last year, when some teachers taught fewer classes. We teach later in the afternoon to maximize classroom space and we run more sections.

3. Have any changes been added to the content of the courses in the last two years? Yes, mainly in reading texts, video and audio additions, refinement of tasks. CAD courses are constantly being upgraded to match the continually more prepared and better students we attract.

4. What do you base this upgrade upon? Teachers' recognition while teaching that certain texts or tasks can be revised or replaced with better, more up-to-date materials that more closely suit the course objectives and the students' abilities.

Building 5- Academic Area-SSE
SSE Dean's Office

Q: the last two semesters, AUI had a big number of students enrolling. Did this reflect on SSE school?

A: Actually, no. The SSE numbers are down because many people graduated during the last three semesters. In 2000, the number of students was really big and they graduated almost at the same time, therefore the school is still below its expectations. For instance, in spring 02 the number of SSE students hit the 387 students

whereas in Fall 05 it was of 276.

Q: A number of students enroll at SSE then decide to "switch" to other schools, why is this?

A: The freshman courses in SSE are quite challenging, and new students talk to other students and hear that the programs are easier. Students tend to think about what program is easier and about getting better grades. It seems they do not think about the long term, and what they really want to become in five or ten years.

Q: Some students tend to be suspicious concerning the BSEMS major, they claim it is not deep enough in what concerns computer science.

A: This program has been specifically designed to satisfy the needs of the markets where most AUI graduates work. According to the employers, the engineering often lacks exposure to management area, this is why this program was implemented. Furthermore, many of the jobs held by AUI SSE graduates are less technology specific than they require an understanding of the market.

Q: There were some changes concerning prerequisites for some computer science courses, why?

A: The market is in constant evolution, so every two or three years the curricula are reviewed as a whole, so that the current teaching meets the current needs of the market. And since the content of some courses changes, then

the prerequisites to this course change too.

Q: What are your expectations for SSE school?

A: I hope that the school grows solidly and that we manage to get a consistent number of students at each level. We also expect to look at other program options especially in the engineering domain rather than computer science. The overall aim is that AUI graduates will be trained to be linked more directly in local industry as well as overseas, and for this purpose AUI is having many collaborations with top engineering schools namely in France and Germany.

Building 11- Academic Area-SBA
SBA Dean's Office

Dr Elgarah Wafa was appointed as the coordinator of undergraduate SBA students.

Dr Majumdar Swapan Kumar was appointed as the coordinator of the EBMS Program Miss Hanae Drissi Alami Machichijointed the teaching faculty of the SBA school Mrs Mouna Ennaji joined the teaching faculty of the SBA school

Mr Hammad KASSAL, Fédération Marocaine des PME PMI is an adjunct faculty at the school of business

No dean for the moment

Building 8- Academic Area-SHSS & LC
SHSS Dean's Office

No news up to now. There are ideas of conferences or events in which the school



(from left to right) Dean Amine Bensaid (SSE) - Driss Ouaouicha (interim Dean of SBA) - Dean Mohammed Dahbi (SHSS)

Community service is not a new concept to our university. The aim late Hassan II has behind initiating this project in Ifrane meets this essence. Surely, the way it is done at AUI does not make everyone happy. Those who were accepted and granted a scholarship feel they should be active willingly and should not be obliged. However, knowing all our students and their blindness to the fact that their self-growth, guaranteed by social work, precedes the career success, obliging them to a number of hours is a must.

The President, addressing the parents of students in orientation days, stressed that parents should leave their kids fend for themselves. By being responsible, Mr Ben Mokhtar meant being an integral part in the change of this part of Morocco which fights hard battles against the cold, poverty and marginalization. No need to repeat that the National Initiative for Human Development targets all parts of our country and our university as a leader should be the first to impel its students to part take in that circle.

This said, our administration has to inform its students of this fact and sensitize them about the importance of the action.

In the weekly meeting of the editorial board, there has been a focus on the failure to communicate round essential things like community service. Students do not know if being part of clubs is considered part of it and whether community work should be done just with hand in hand or going on the field and put their hands in the pie. Our students are also in the dark about fixing a certain amount of hours & choosing just the 051 onwards.



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«La Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion Career» Talk

The Moroccan job Market: A Realistic Picture

Mr. El Hajoui started by describing the Moroccan job Market through drawing a comparison between the Moroccan job market of the past and the one of the last decade. If in the past, one needed only a diploma to get a job, today, and since there are plenty of diploma holders, one must have other skills in order to get hired. Some of the most important skills a potential employee should have:

1. Flexibility
2. Adaptability
3. Polyvalence

The key to a successful career: is choosing a career as early as determining the field of studies and not after getting the diploma.

Importance of Internships

AUI students must benefit from the opportunity of getting internships abroad. Internships abroad offer students a very enriching experience

in addition to a chance to test and develop more than the three key skills mentioned above.

Students should not do all their internships in the same company or in the same professional environment which would hinder them and disrupt their learning process.

Employment in Morocco:

According to the "World Bank", the percentage of money designated to salaries should not be higher than 12% of the national GDP. Knowing that in Morocco the percentage

has already reached 11.5% even after the voluntary departure, we can conclude that, practically, the Public sector in Morocco does not or rather should not recruit any more.

The Moroccan job market is disorganized since there are no active agencies that organize job offers and requests or regulate relations between job seekers and recruiters.

A study that has been recently made concluded that the focus in the Moroccan job market will be during the coming few years on fields like "Car

Industry" and "aeronautic".

Students' feedback:

In general, AUI students reacted positively to the career talk and were satisfied with the talk given by Mr. Hajoui, since he provided them with practical information concerning the Moroccan job market, for instance one student decided to switch his major from "computer science" to "engineering and management" just after the lecture.

Question/Answer Session

The most important questions students asked were:

Q1 In AUI all, our studies are in English, whereas the Moroccan job market requires perfect French and Arabic, so isn't that going to be an obstacle for AUI graduates to succeed in their careers?

R1: The fact that you are studying in English can't be considered as an obstacle in any way. On the contrary, it is a plus for the candidate,

especially that Morocco has a free trade agreement with U.S.A which means that several Anglophone companies will invest here during the next few years and certainly they will need candidates whose English is "perfect".

Q2 I noticed that the focus during the whole lecture was on Engineering and Business schools, but I am studying International Cooperation in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Do you believe that there are

opportunities in the Moroccan job market knowing that the Moroccan companies aren't that "developed"?

R2 There must be opportunities, but mainly in the big companies, on the other hand, they will be a serious need for this kind of qualified people in the future, so we can say that it is "Un métier de l'avenir", but still as we mentioned earlier the candidate must be flexible and adapt to the current job market needs.

Trip to Rass El Ma

Allan Alpha PETERSON

Ibn Battuta was a great explorer. On Saturday, March 4th in the month of Safar, 2006/1427, there was an excursion by great explorers of Ifrane. Not just any explorers. These were explorers from Al Akhawayn University (AUI). These men and women were led by the advisor Salaheddine Zekri, whom you may indeed be the future Ibn Battuta with his invaluable survival skills knowledge.

There were positives in this trip. One plus was that the men got to hold hands with the women when helping each other cross rivers and creeks. Another one is that it was simply so much fun. The AUI students had a blast singing songs while



All the participants taking a group picture before leaving the campus

treading through the forest, which by the way was unexpectedly VERY snowy. Critics of the trip may point out the lack of planning. There seemed to be an underestimation of how rough the

journey was going to be and rumors did indeed pop up of exhausted students taking a break from Monday morning courses.

The trip went rather smoothly. The group's leader resorted to several pauses during the journey of 5 kilometers. Remember, that is about 5 thousand meters of

walking. Along the way, a monkey was spotted and on the way back, several mountain sheep. Unfortunately, no Atlas lion was found. Pardon, FORTUNATELY!

Overall, the proceedings were positive. The highlight must have been the campfire. At this campfire, the AUI students rested and took naps playing and basking on the riverside. After the pauses for rest, detours and shortcuts through the snowy forest, the beautiful destination was reached. It was a highly satisfactory trip. The once in a lifetime experience was a great way to spend the weekend. The Saturday in the month of Safar paved the way to rest for a good week back at AUI for the regular course week.



Photo by: Allan Peterson

Those Lonesome Eyes !?!

Did you hear about 60 hours of Mandatory Community Work?

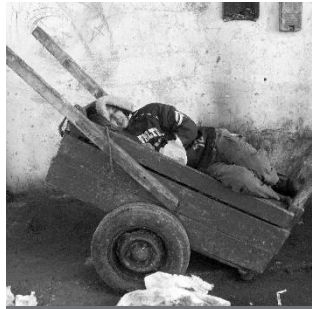
Karima SAADAoui

They were dirty, young aged between 10 and 18 years old. Some of These children were working on cleaning the fish; others were sniffing glue, and others relaxing on the roofs of the fisherman hangars. They live in groups, and they work to earn their living. I met these children in the seaport with my supervisor Mr. Saadoun Omar and I was afraid of them. However, once Mr. Omar introduced me I discovered how friendly they are.

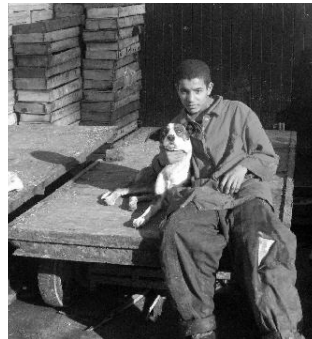
My meeting with these children was part of my obligation to complete the 60 hours of community services which is a new policy that concerns students starting from Fall 2005 and which requires them to complete 60 hours of community work before graduation. Last break, I

decided to start these 60 hours and I chose "Bayti Association".

BAYTI, is a non-profit association recognized as a public utility institution. It targets children in difficult circumstances: Street children, working children, abandoned children, juvenile delinquent and sexually exploited children. It is composed of a multidisciplinary team including educators, social workers, psychologists, teachers, artists and students, BAYTI set up original and specific programs for social reintegration: parental education, individualized pedagogy workshop and adapted professional training. To date, more than 4970 children have benefited from the association various workshops and



Omar whom I acquainted on the road



services. As of today, 250 of these children have been reunited with their families; 43 are currently attending school. 40 are involved in personalized workshops; 50 are taking a formal or professional training; 15 are currently employed in the private sector.

It was an interesting and enriching experience;

I discovered the street world. This world was a source of fear before. I got in touch with street children. I also participated in some of the activities that the association offers to these children in order to reintegrate them to society. Educators teach them how to be good citizens, they organize debates in class, they teach them how to read and write. The association helps them with clothes, Hammam, and travel expenses for those who live far from Casablanca. In addition, children have their own sport team through which they learn team spirit.

During the two weeks I spent with these children, I noticed they are both intelligent and aggressive. For instance, they learn quickly in class, but they

are aggressive with each other. Also, I discovered that these children suffer from many problems including divorce, prostitution, child labor, incest, and abandoned children.

I learned many things from this experience. I am no more afraid of these children when I am walking outside in Casablanca. Moreover, I learned the skills and the vocabulary needed to interact with them. I also learned that one should never judge another person by just looking at him/her because inside there is something that nobody knows. Also, the real Morocco is something very different from what we know, and it is our duty to help make the real Morocco better even by simple acts. Together we can do more.

EVERYBODY Uses Slang

Imane EL FECHTANI

Slang is used everywhere by everybody, and AUI isn't an exception. Being a place where students from different cultures, cities, and backgrounds are fusing together to generate the AUI slang. The latter is nothing but a combination of slang used in Moroccan cities added to some special words used exclusively at AUI. AUI Slang keeps growing with the increasing number of students and also with the language transfer that happens during break time. AUI may seem to be an isolated place in the mountains, yet it gathers a tremendous amount of diversity, in language, background and social status and hence takes care of the creation of new slang.

Words like "Sat" and "Sata", are originally from Rabat and Casablanca, and were transported by the Rabati and Casaoui students. Words such as "Harf" and "Tehraf" are an



AUI creation, as far as I know. Other words like, 'Printyt', which means "I have printed", are transformations of the English word "To Print" in an Arabic manner. A clear example would be that "roommate" was changed in the case of a female roommate to "roomayta". The "a" at the end of the word refers to a female. Similarly, many words are being borrowed from the French, English, or Spanish languages and are transformed to be used in Arabic. It is amazing how AUI students can create and spread words among them. These words have become a part of the AUI language and no one is pointing at them.

The need to be different and the need to belong are two main reasons why some auists [isn't this slang as well] use this

slang. People have the need to be different, but at the same time they want to be part of the "cool" group. These words give the auists this feeling of uniqueness and belonging at same time. After asking an auist about the reason for using Slang, she said, "Everyone uses them to be accepted in the new community of teens and to be cool" Another auist "To show up".

What one can notice is that not all students use all the slang words. Some students are selective, and the words they use reflect the background and sometimes even the intellectual level of students. A hypothesis could be that those funny words were a secret code before they spread among students. Sometimes, and in certain

situations, one would need to communicate something with another person without revealing it to the group; In this case, a secret code would be helpful. Then if this "secret code" was used with many people, it will lead to its propagation.

It was impossible for me to collect all the slang words but here are some that are common:

Laasyr: hanging out; Partiya: a party; Harf: studying hard; Hrfouf: someone known for studying hard; Sat: a guy; Sata/ Deriya: a girl; Mot: a lot; Tekwas: evil eye; Kewas: someone with an evil eye; Resh: go away; Mshina: let's go; Mhenser: in trouble; Netser clou: have a walk; Mstouni: someone cool; Shabka/ Hamda: difficult situation; Shakhda: very nice

Mhayha: very nice; Lhmak: a great thing; Twishiyat: stuff; Awah: really!; Tkherbika: anything; Tlawhe [3lih] is this supposed to be here] : he was unfair with him; Mayaakalshalik: he will show no mercy towards you; Teftah: having good time; Wa[3]ra=beautiful/wonderful; katpoupa= boastful / showing off; roomayta/Lkouta=Female roommate; touta=beautiful girl; printyt: I printed; tanprintyt: I am printing...and more

Despite its spread at AUI, as in other universities, some students consider it as a vulgar way to speak. Others are selective among those words, but what is sure is that, EVERYBODY uses slang.



FATIMA ZOHRA BENSALD



ACHRAF BOUJIR



OMAR BERRADA



MEHDI EL KHACHIA



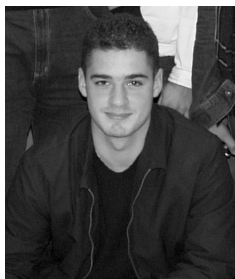
AHMED BERRADA



GHIZLANE FOUADI



TAHIR EL ANDALOUSSI



AMINE JELLAL



ADIL LYAMANI



GHITA BENKIRANE



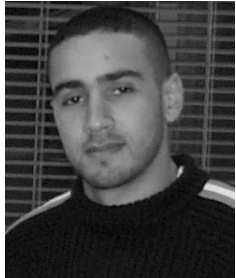
KHALIL DAHBI



KHALID EL HASSAN



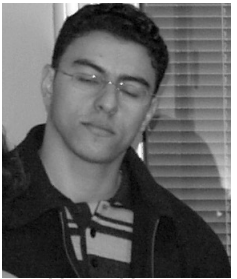
INTISSAR HEMIM AICHA



IMAD JEBBOURI



OMAR JAHIDI



MOUNIR MHAMDI



NAZIH EL BEZZARI

SGA is here to serve you

and toward supporting your academic achievements. Soaring to new heights and advancing at lightningspeed, our university is remaining focused on its number one priority: students.

Actually, SGA believes that it is time to make student needs a priority on this campus. Every day, there is a need for a program that does not yet exist and in that sense, SGA is striving on a daily basis to anticipate and meet the needs of 1074

students. However, this is not an easy task; the guidance of our university along with its path of excellence requires the effort of each one of us. Only when students become aware of their needs and are ready to articulate their concerns can the SGA consolidate its stance vis-à-vis the administration and operate effectively to serve the interests of students. Thus, we call upon all students to participate fully to pro-students SGA activities. SGA members are committed to

serve the cause of students and feel accountable to their respective student constituencies. However, they need to keep abreast with everyday campus concerns. We are the student's voice and we would love to hear any issues from you, either you have an idea, complaint or comment; we invite you to make your voice heard. Our door is always open and we look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your support!!

Google, Froogle, Gmail...what's next?

Imane EL FECHTANI

Everybody googles something, someday.

Google is derived from Googol, which is 10 to the power 100. Google started as a research project and was built in the late 1997, early 1998. It was the 3rd search engine at the time, after the creation of Yahoo and Excite.

Google was founded by Sergey Brin and Larry Page who met at Stanford in 1995. Both are computer science majors with areas of focus in data mining and user interface design. Google is defined as being "a joint founded by geeks and run by geeks. It is a collection of 650 really smart people who are almost frighteningly single-minded. "These are people who think they are creating something that's the best in the world," says Peter Norvig, a Google engineering director. "And that product is changing

people's lives."¹

Its simple and straightforward service was a capturing feature in Google. In addition, Google does not offend googlers with ads. Ads are nicely displayed on the right of the page and one can even ignore their existence.

The services that Google offers apart from web searching vary from email services (GMAIL) to shopping online (FROOGLE). When first launched, GMAIL was a real hunt. With a 1Go space which is growing (it reached 2.6 Go) email users were eager to get a Gmail invitation from a friend or a seller. GMAIL invitations were even sold in E-BAY and currently cost up to \$2.38. Froogle on the other hand, is a service of smart shopping through Google. This service offers a variety of products with the possibility to range by price, brand and category. This service

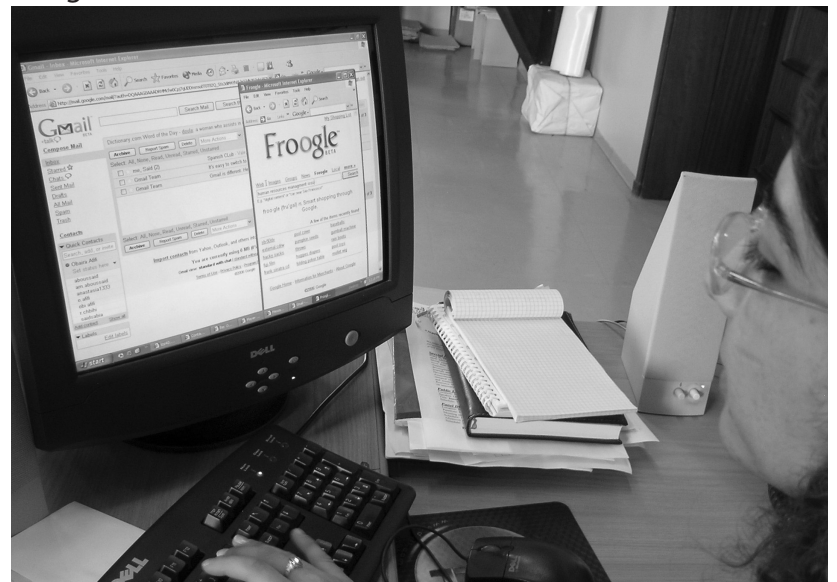
also includes a new feature of local shopping. The latter allows the googler to enter a zip code or city to show the items that can be bought locally.

Analysts guess that Google's revenue last year was between \$60 million and \$300 million. With the number of 5,680 full time employees as of December 31, 2005 from which most are technical/engineering, Google stuff includes some of the

most experienced technology and business professionals around the world.

Google is still growing and offering more services such as: Google Video, Google earth, Google Maps...and more to be Googled.

¹: <http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/69/google.html>



Bird Flu ... !!

Safia EL MOUTAOUKIL

We are living in the same world; we suffer the same disasters, so we are in the same boat. But what do we learn from each other?

In the last year, many countries have suffered various disasters, Morocco among them. And now, bird flu, which has left many Moroccans afraid, not only of eating chickens, but also of having contact with birds in general.

What about Al Akhawayn University? Does this affect students and staff? No one seems to know. Who really cares?

Two friends of mine are suffering from stomachaches, which they think come from eating chickens infected with bird flu.

Others don't seem to care. They have never even heard about bird flu.

Thus, these two opposite opinions suggest the university must inform us whether or not the food we eat is healthy, and they should reassure us, if they can, that we don't have to be afraid of getting sick from eating what they cook.

Interviews done previously with the



Dean of Student Affairs and the manager of the restaurant confirmed that the food we eat is treated. The SGA committee has always been asked to check the food and go down to the cooking section to see how food is prepared to our students. Samples of the food is kept for a later analysis by our local laboratory.



AUI Lab that guarantees the food's safety

Future Prospects in the Middle East

Houda OUGADDOUM

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a lecture/debate by Dr. Othman Al Rawaf, Professor at King Saud University in Riyadh and former member of Majlis-Al-Shura in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Al Rawaf started his lecture by explaining the difference between a problem and a crisis since the latter is characterized by its sudden appearance, such as the crisis of Cuban missiles or more recently the leadership issue in Kuwait. A crisis also has a great intensity and is punctuated by the pressure of time and would eventually lead to solving the issue or to war, which could also be simply violence if the crisis is within one country.

As the lecture was tackling the current issues related to the Middle East one by one, I was building my own opinion concerning this captivating subject.

Dr. Al Rawaf stated that the US had attacked Saddam Hussein because he was a threat since he could be a strong ally to "Al Qaida." I found this rather interesting since as far as I remember the main argument raised by the US was concerning Iraq's threat with the weapons of mass destruction which turned out to be just a fallacy. Then some thinkers from all over the world and international NGOs, such as Greenpeace, claimed this war to be just a "dirty oil war" if I may say since they "believed the war was more about oil than about effectively dealing with

weapons of mass destruction." I can say that so far I've heard many diverging versions of the reasons behind the war in Iraq and it seems to me that the only constant "variable" in this equation is death among the NATO soldiers but we didn't go this far in the discussion...

The other issue raised which is more pressing due to its recent nature is the Syrian/Lebanese conflict (with the American involvement). This crisis is actually a culmination of many tensions were already present in the region, however it has witnessed a critical phase lately especially after the extension of Lebanese president Emile Lahoud's mandate and the pressure from the NATO concerning Decision 1559 urging Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. The killing of Hariri was the impetus or a media war and accusations against Syria. Many people of my generation have heard their parents talking about the Lebanese civil war and the murder of Kamal Jumblat and many other politicians and all the accusations against Syria. Therefore, it would be easy to state that Syria killed Hariri in accordance with its old school that is, eliminating the political figures.

Although defensible, this version is too simple and even naïve to a certain extent because, as Dr. Al Rawaf pointed out, there are too many potential doers of this act that we cannot tell which part actually did it. In fact, the murder of Hariri could have been part of an "American plan" to extend in the Middle

East by creating tensions. Therefore US is among the suspects in this murder. Also, the traditional Arab response to this murder would be that Israel did it, and as a matter of fact none can deny that it's possible because none can prove it to be wrong. Abdelhalim Khaddam is the former vice-president, for 30 years a confidant of al-Assad's late father, Hafez al-Assad, he has left the government in June. He has been accused of treason and expelled from the ruling Baath Party after a series of verbal attacks on the president. According to Dr. Rawaf, Khaddam said that Syria is not that crazy to commit a "political suicide" and compromise its situation in the Middle East, indeed al Khaddam did say: "at no time did it occur to me that Syria could assassinate Hariri." Dr. Al Rawaf's point seemed convincing, however in an interview with CNN done on January 6th Khaddam said: "President Bashar al-Assad's actions led to the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri -- although he did not directly link al-Assad to the murder -- and resulted in the "humiliating" withdrawal of

Syrian troops from Lebanon." This quote is from a further investigation that I did after the conference, therefore Dr. Al Rawaf didn't have the occasion to make a point or explain this contradiction and it is not within the limited scope of my political knowledge to attempt to do so.

To end his talk, Dr. Rawaf suggested that the only way to solve this problem would be to proceed to some major actions such as sacrificing big names (not necessarily the president), giving back the Shab'a lands and maybe a Syrian support to the US in Iraq. This sounds to me to be a large tribute to pay to external actors when dealing with an internal problem. I guess this is part of western view of social Darwinism because it seems that the United States of America consider the Middle East as being unfit to their noble "beliefs"; therefore the common sense would dictate that this oil-rich area be accommodated by force to ensure the well being of its inhabitants under the paternal supervision of the democracy protectors.

the only way to solve this problem would be to proceed to some major actions such as sacrificing big names (not necessarily the president), giving back the Shab'a lands and maybe a Syrian support to the US in Iraq.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social development has lent the Moroccan Highway Administration (ADM) MAD 960Mn, 1 USD is 9 MADs, to contribute to fund the Marrakech-Agadir motorway, south-western Morocco.

Hey Polluters!

Zaynab EL BERNOUSSI

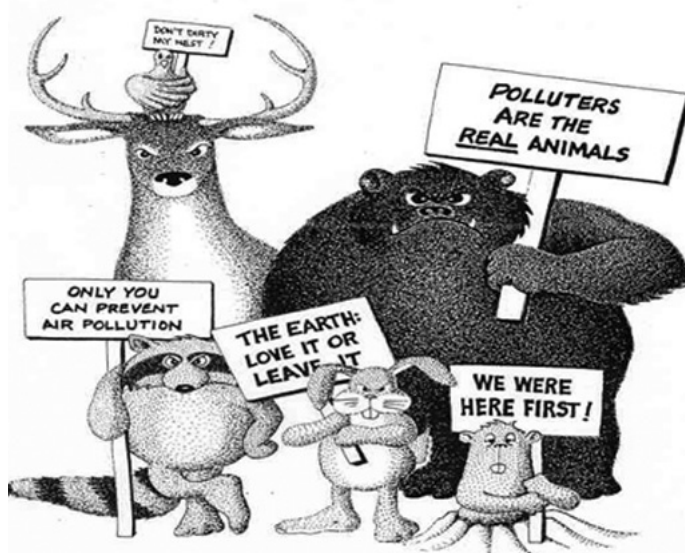


Do you still remember when you were just a "new comer" and you spent about two hours listening to a certain Professor Raissouni talking about "stupid" ecological issues. Oh, sorry you were sleeping. In fact, you missed a lot. Trust me. If you had been attentive enough (maybe you really were), you would have noticed the importance of the message of this emeritus professor. "Think Global. Act Local." Here are the golden words of his message.

Ecology is a serious issue nowadays. Nature is our mother as she gives us shelter and nourishes us. We have started exploring her to find out how amazing and useful she can be. But each day, we want more from this beloved mother and so we take more and more. She has been bled out by our selfish desires, for our futile pleasures. We are murderers and criminals and with our everyday deeds we are killing the mother who always cares about us. After an era of pollution from western industrialization, we are now in an era of pollution due to the industrialization of developing countries. Even if Morocco is not the most polluting developing country its contribution to world pollution is significant.

Ecological issues

are a matter of survival, and we need to implement ecological awareness. Moroccans need to be aware of the importance of ecological issues and sustainable development, and more particularly



Do not wait for the government to do things for you. You can contribute to ecology with the simplest of things.

we as Moroccan youth have to be pioneers in ecological awareness. Protecting nature is vital, and we must think about the future generation (maybe our children). It is our responsibility.

Do you know where CEIRD is located? Oh sorry. First, I should ask. Do you know what CEIRD is? CEIRD stands for the Centre of Environmental Issues and Regional Development. What is CEIRD doing? The centre is giving

a lot of help to the agricultural community and promoting Moroccan ecological status. The centre has also a large presence at the international and national levels of the

happy to respond to your questions about ecology and will always welcome your suggestions or any kind of help. You can also take a look at the centre's website (www.ceird.ma) and think about your ecological contribution in this world.

Another of the centre's important objectives is to implement ecological awareness on our campus. Staff and faculty are responding very well to the ecological program but students are not. More interestingly, the exchange students come to the centre and ask for information about it more than AUI students do. However, exchange students are only a minority on AUI campus (about 5% each semester). Points being, they participate in the ecological events organized by the CEIRD more than you, Moroccan students, do.

Some of you may say that we are a

poor country, and we have other priorities than ecology. But you must realize that ecology means economy and also managing our country's resources well. Additionally, sustainable development is the real need for Morocco. Do not wait for the government to do things for you. You can contribute to ecology with the simplest of things. When each individual acts the overall impact is stronger.

Environment is a worldwide issue that must be taken seriously because of its great importance. It is a matter of survival for everyone and that must never be forgotten. We have to implement an ecological awareness in our country and teach the importance of protecting the environment to the new generations.



Who is Your Valentine !?

Tarik EL FECHTANI

It's been some years now that whenever there is an occasion, or an event, some clubs choose to celebrate it. This has been thought of as an activity for the club, which will show its status as active during the semester. What we've never asked ourselves is why the celebrations should always be using big amplifiers right at the entrance of the restaurants during lunch time?

At a specific day, whether it's a clubs' fair, St. Valentine's Day, or even just a day chosen by a club to make

a specific activity public, all we need is a laptop, the famous big amplifiers, and let's Rock it. What I don't really understand is do they really think it's a joy for everyone? You go to have your lunch peacefully on that specific day; from far away (since the game room) the loud music is damaging the amplifiers already. Being hungry, you approach the main door of the restaurant. The closer you get the more you feel your ears will explode... so what's the reason really behind putting loud music? Really, if they bring an outsider to AUI at that specific day, he'll think

that it's a discotheque, not a university. Well, maybe some will find it enjoyable and entertaining to listen to House music while eating their lunches, but others will really find it irresponsible. So maybe it's necessary to respect all views, and maybe it's more entertaining to have the loud music far from academic and restaurant area; at least, no one will impose something on others...



Van Vs Taxi

Flexible Trajectory
Available in the mornings
Spacious
Quick response
Accessible through a phone call
Can bring a sandwich from La paix



It cannot reach the dorms
Cannot drive more than three
Expensive



Cheap
Can drive a group of friends at once
Can reach the dorms



Inflexible trajectory
Not available in the mornings
Crowded



80% of the sample students are for the van

Take my life

Sarah CHERRABI EL ALAOUI

If I can't differentiate what's wrong and what's right
Then take me
If I can't see and appreciate the good
Then shoot me
If I'm here only to sin

Then take me
If I'm hurting people who love me
Then get me,
Get my spirit, get my soul, get my life
Don't forgive me, don't pardon me

Because I don't care about your forgiveness
I just want to stop my sadness
Give me my liberty, give me my freedom
Kill me if you want, but release me
You have the power,

You got the control
Praise to you slay me
Take my life

Issue debated

The cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed

Maryam CHEIKHI

Nothing is known about those cartoons, except that they must have been highly disrespectful.

ALPHA PETERSON

Exchange Student

Washington College

I think that the cartoons were untasteful and disrespectful; however, it is difficult for me to comprehend the actions taken across the globe. I often see my own religious figure mocked and disrespected, though I won't say that I've become accustomed to it and I take it very seriously. It reaches into the depths of my heart and I take all of the negative connotations quite personally. Yet there is a choice in how to respond. I choose to simply turn the other cheek, and do my best to disprove their suggestions.

JENNIFER KOPKO

West Virginia

For my world politics class, we had the opportunity to give our opinion on how the Danish cartoons led to world confusion. Most of the papers stressed the fact that people overreacted to this situation and that freedom of speech had to be respected, even for religious matters.

For my part, I stressed on the fact that that being a true believer in Islam meant loving the Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) more than



Salma making the best of a heterogeneous culture



Allan already in the mix



Anas, Rappin' in da house of da beat ourselves. For that reason, and knowing

that Islam forbids the representation of Muhammad (SAWS), a Muslim person can't accept, under the name of freedom of speech, the degrading depiction of Allah's messenger. However, I think that the Muslim community gave a large importance to this issue. People overreacted to these cartoons and it seemed to me that the conflict moved from the violence toward the cartoons to a need for each country to prove that

it is more Islamic than the other. We, as Muslims, are living in a fragile period where Islam is not well understood by the West, and it is not in our advantage to have such reactions to acts that could have been solved using dialogue.

Many students here, at WAC, are asking me about my religion especially questions about the veil, terrorism... I am already planning to write an article on the WAC newspaper...

SALMA SEKKAT

Exchange student, Washington College

I think that freedom of speech does not give anybody by any means the right to offend the religion of other people. On the other hand I don't think that burning flags and vandalizing stores is helping to fix the stereotype that the western world had built about our muslim societies.

ANAS HAMIMECHE

Johnson & Wals, Providence

Connect the Dots

* The Alumni Association is working on their newsletter which would include all the information about the association. Two Thumbs UP

* The last SGA mandate ended their term on a good note by hosting the one and only Nass El Ghiwan ... Lhyouh

* At last Rahal decided to communicate with our students and put the prices of the items yet the printers of tickets should be operational... the semester is getting to an

end.

* A bus was promised but we are still waiting since the clubs are badly in need of vans.

* The SSE has been looking for a lost item which no other school can lay hands on: A DATA SHOW. Please if anyone finds one, call the operator.

* When would people realize that the laundry is "closed" not "closet"

* Students are taking liberties these last days as the number of security agents has decreased. The library is a niche for noise but that is normal for an oral culture.

* No pain, No gain. Don't expect to have your meal in 5, 10, or even 20min. Don't even expect finding a fork. In fact there are 2 queue 1 for the meals and 1 for the forks. Spoons are for the very lucky people. Or try eating with a knife.

Be Happy

Souad ADNANE

It is true that happiness loses its meaningfulness within all the sadness we experience, but still, we should have the power to get over our sadness and change it into happiness. How? It is a challenging transition; however, it becomes much easier if we are motivated by the willingness, not only to try, but also to fight until the end, and this end should be the beginning of a new happy life.

Some people may think that I am too young to say that I have gone through many difficult experiences, but I can proudly say that my experience of living twenty years on earth, with human beings, has led me, I think, to maturity. Fortunately, I have reached the conclusion that sadness is not human beings' destiny; rather, it is a human beings' choice. We choose to be

sad, we choose to be upset, we choose to be frustrated, and the worst is that we choose to keep on.

I do not ignore the fact that one may experience sad situations, may lose wealth, health or a beloved one, but one should not lose him/herself.

"life is neither a bed of roses, nor a carpet of thorns; it is just what YOU make of it"

We surrender by reacting too negatively and too emotionally toward sad events. We focus on the sadness of the event instead of thinking about the happiness it can bring. I know it is difficult to imagine the happiness that a person's death may bring! But if we just try to see things from other perspectives, and take into

consideration other dimensions, we can reach the wisdom to see positive things behind anything appearing to be negative.

If you could not reach something, it is not the end of the world. It is nothing but just the beginning. It is your motivation to work hard, to change your inappropriate attitude to attain your goals. It is the secret that gives life a sweet taste. It is what gives your success a value. It is what changes your sadness into happiness. A person should know how to deal with situations positively. I do not claim that human beings should get rid of their emotions and feel happy even experiencing difficult moments. Instead, I believe that negative emotions should not reach the extent to demolish our life and make it sad rather than happy.

Human beings are

inclined to focus on negativity they are surrounded with, and they forget to see their good, positive and happy surroundings. They look at things they do not have and forget to look at things they do have, things that are more valuable. People look at others' life and think it is better. They think the grass is greener the other side; however, it is not. It is just a mirage they believe in, to make by themselves their own sadness.

I used to believe that life is hell. When once, I heard someone saying: "life is a rose!" I simply laughed. Now, I believe that "life is neither a bed of roses, nor a carpet of thorns; it is just what YOU make of it". We can always make from our sadness a bridge to our happiness. So, BE HAPPY!

The Quotes Garden: Freedom

Imane EL FECHTANI

Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide. ~Napoleon Bonaparte

History does not teach fatalism. There are moments when the will of a handful of free men breakthrough determinism and opens up new roads. ~Charles de Gaulle

The patriot's blood is the seed of Freedom's tree. ~Thomas Campbell

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves. ~Abraham Lincoln

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you. ~Dick

Cheney

In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. ~Benjamin Franklin

No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck. ~Frederick Douglass

Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote freedom to err. ~Mahatma Gandhi

Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better. ~Albert Camus

The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion. ~Edmund Burke



MR BURKE in his visit to AUI in Spring 2003

Without freedom, no one really has a name. ~Milton Acorda

Volleyball Teams Travel to Oujda

Jennifer KOPKO

Thursday, February 23 both Men's and Women's volleyball teams traveled

preparatory match for the upcoming game against Fez."

While the game was preparatory, both

teams lost to Fez on Thursday March 2nd at a home match. Many students showed up to cheer on the AUI volleyball teams, but were disappointed with back to back

three game losses by both the men's and women's teams.

The scores of the men's games were: 25-21/26-24/25-13

The scores of the women's games were: 25-20/25-21/25-21.



to Oujda in a match against University Muhammad I.

The women's team, returning from a loss at a tournament in Rabat, went on to win the match 3-2. The match was decided by a final game to 15 points instead of 25, in which the women narrowly outscored their opponents 15-13. The scores of the other 4 games are as follows: Game 1, 25-27 loss; Game 2, 25-15 win; Game 3, 25-18 win; Game 4, 21-25 loss.

"The girls were able to succeed because of their ability to curb pressure" said Athletic Director Adel, who traveled with the teams to Oujda.

The men's team, who played just after the women, made a good show but was un-victorious. They lost the first three games and the match ended quickly. The scores were as follows: Game 1, 17-25; Game 2, 10-25; Game 3, 18-25. Adel also commented on the men's match, "The other team was far better, and it was a good

Women Volleyball Team need all your support



AUI Lions 0 Vs. RCA 1 : a great defense spared us loss